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YEE PROMOTES ENERGY CONSERVATION



2006 FLEX YOUR POWER AWARDS TO HIGHLIGHT ENERGY CONSERVATION LEADERS

California and the Bay Area specifically have been hit with record-breaking temperatures, taxing the electricity system to the limits of its capacity. According to the California Independent System Operator (CAISO) demand has reached a level not projected for California until the year 2011.

As part of a number of conservation efforts, Speaker pro Tem Yee is urging residents and businesses of San Francisco and San Mateo counties to do their part in helping conserve energy and to nominate individuals and organizations for the 2006 Flex Your Power Awards.

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YEE HONORED BY NATIONAL AND STATE SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS



ASSEMBLYMAN YEE AWARDED "LEGISLATOR OF THE YEAR" AND "SPECIAL FRIEND OF CHILDREN"

For his commitment to California's children and authoring significant mental health reform legislation, state and national school psychologists recently honored Speaker pro Tem Leland Yee, Ph.D. with two major awards.

The California Association of School Psychologists (CASP) selected Yee as "Legislator of the Year" in recognition of his support of pupil support services and public education. CASP's national affiliate, the National Association of School Psychologists, also honored Yee with the "Special Friend of Children" award for his dedication to children and the profession of school psychology.

"Assemblyman Yee clearly understands the dynamics of education reform and the needs of at-risk and special needs children and the trained professionals that support them," said Suzanne Fisher, CASP's Executive Director. "Working with a state legislator that 'gets it' is a pleasure and honor. We look forward to his continued advocacy for at-risk and special needs children in the coming years."

The CASP Legislator of the Year is given to the legislator that has demonstrated an understanding and a commitment to the needs of children in both the general and special education populations. Additionally, this person understands the important role school support personnel, particularly school psychologists, play in a successful educational experience.

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The Flex Your Power Awards are a component of California's official statewide energy efficient campaign. Nominations are encouraged for individuals, companies, government agencies, and organizations that have provided exemplary leadership in advancing California's efforts to save energy and water.

"Power is a scarce resource and we need to see that it is conserved, especially during these warmer summer days," said Yee. "I encourage all those in the community who have taken extraordinary steps towards saving energy to apply for a 2006 Flex Your Power Award."

Awards will be given in four categories: Energy Efficiency – programs involving the installation of energy efficient equipment, lighting, and appliances; Demand Response/Conservation – activities or equipment used to reduce energy use during certain times of the day (e.g. at peak) by shedding or shifting demand (also referred to as load management); Education and Leadership – educational efforts or outstanding leadership that has had a significant impact in the areas of energy efficiency or demand response/conservation; Innovations for Products or Services – innovations for a product or a service that improves energy efficiency or demand response. This might apply to technological R&D and manufacturing; retailer promotions; vendor, contractor and consultant programs, among others.

The awardees will be recognized in newspaper ads throughout the state and will be featured on the Flex Your Power website. In 2005, a number of Peninsula organizations were recognized for their energy conservation efforts including the City of San Mateo, Fairmont Hotels, Gap Inc, Glide Memorial Church, Menlo Worldwide Logistics, Oracle, San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, San Francisco Wholesale Produce Market, San Mateo County Community College District, Seagate Property Management, Shorenstein Company, Metreon, Hewlett-Packard, Hilton San Francisco, Kaiser Permanente, and United States Postal Service (San Francisco), among others.

To apply or nominate an organization or individual, fill-out an application at <http://www.fypower.org/extranet/awards>. In the meantime, all residents and businesses should take steps to avoid critical energy shortages, including 1) turning the air conditioning up to 78, and if possible, to 82 degrees (still comfortable and saves large amounts of electricity); 2) postponing using equipment and appliances until after 7pm (shift electricity use until after "peak"); 3) turning off all unnecessary lights (lighting uses lots of electricity, and unless you have energy efficient lighting, your inefficient lighting heats up the room and causes a higher air conditioning electricity demand and bill).

For more information about how to save energy go to <http://www.fypower.org>. The site shows real time energy supply and demand in the state, and allows visitors to sign up for an email "Flex Alert" to be notified when the state is facing an energy crunch.



YEE COMMENDS FILIPINO STUDENTS FOR HONORING THEIR ELDERS

**YOUTH HOLD 'WEEK OF ACTION' IN RECOGNITION OF
FILIPINO WWII VETERANS**

Assemblyman Yee, whose district includes the largest Filipino community outside of the Philippines, recently commended the youth of Student Action for Veterans Equity (SAVE) and the Pilipino Youth Coalition (PYC) for honoring Filipino WWII veterans. In July, the students held a "Week of Action" to commemorate Filipino WWII soldiers and urge Congress to pass HR 4574 and S 146, the Filipino Veterans Equity Acts.

"For the past three years, I have fought for legislation to ensure young people learn about the courage that Filipino veterans exerted during WWII," said Yee, the co-author of AB 15 and AB 2512 (Horton), bills to add the role of Filipinos in WWII to the high school social studies curriculum. Both were vetoed by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. "Despite this history being neglected in our textbooks, the students of SAVE and PYC have made a personal commitment to honor their elders and I commend them for their action."

In 2001, Yee also authored and passed a resolution urging President George Bush and Congress to restore full benefits to Filipino World War II Veterans. In 2004, Yee successfully fought to save the state Veterans Program, which allows Filipino WWII veterans who have returned to the Philippines to receive \$226 per month in disability benefits.

"Two hundred thousand Filipinos were drafted and fought alongside U.S. troops in WWII," said Yee. "These soldiers and their survivors deserve same benefits as all other soldiers."

SAVE hosted several events in their "Week of Action" including: a luncheon for Filipino WWII veterans; a vigil at the State Capitol; a National Day of Action; a UNLÁD (Tagalog word meaning progress; advancement; improvement), an event showcasing the talents of local Bay Area artists and performers.

"I am incredibly proud of these students for understanding how fortunate we all are for the contributions of the Filipino soldiers who came to our aid during WWII," said Yee.



ASSEMBLYMAN YEE WITH HALF MOON BAY CITY COUNCILMAN AND FARMER JOHN MULLER DURING THE COMMITTEE FOR GREEN FOOTHILLS 'DAY ON THE FARM'



Cheri Parr, Coastsider.com

SONY PULLS RACIALLY-CHARGED BILLBOARD ADVERTISEMENT



YEE, NAACP, SOJOURN GET CORPORATION TO END AD CAMPAIGN

A week after Speaker pro Tem Yee, the NAACP, and Sojourn to the Past – a youth civil rights education project, condemned Sony Corporation for a racially charged advertisement in the Netherlands, Sony pulled the billboard campaign and apologized to those offended.

Sony said in a statement issued by Nick Sharples, Director of Corporate Communications in Europe: "We further recognize that people have a wide variety of perceptions about such imagery and we wish to apologize to those who perceived the advert differently to that intended. In future, we will apply greater sensitivity in our selection of campaign imagery, and will take due account of the increasingly global reach of such local adverts, and their potential impact in other countries."

"I am pleased to see Sony taking responsibility for their racially-charged ad and appropriately pulling it from the marketplace," said Yee. "Sony did the right thing by recognizing their insensitive mistake and apologizing for offending many of their customers."

The ad, promoting the release of Sony's new white-cased portable video game system (PSP), depicted a white woman angrily grabbing a black woman in the face with the text "Playstation Portable. White is coming."

"Sony has done the honorable thing by owning up to the fact that communication and ads in today's global market have a much further reach than in the past," said Rick Callender, President of San Jose/Silicon Valley NAACP. "Their attempt to contrast colors clearly created controversy and sparked painful feelings in the global community. Hopefully in the future, Sony will employ a better litmus test to their ad campaigns to determine if they will be sour to the taste of worldwide consumers. I commend them for their actions."

"Working with young people, Sojourn to the Past teaches many lessons of the Civil Rights Movement including the capacity

to change and forgiveness," said Jeff Steinberg, Sojourn to the Past's Executive Director. "By ending this ad campaign, Sony deserves credit for righting their wrong. We urge all corporations to no longer use such derogatory and racially-charged images to sell their products. These tactics only serve to divide us."

"Unfortunately, this is not the first such racial incident the video game industry has faced," said Yee, author of California's law to prohibit sales of extremely violent video games to minors. "Many games, including Postal 2 and the Grand Theft Auto series, have faced similar criticism due to their racist images and themes."

Postal 2 has received significant criticism from civil rights and women's groups for its over the top depictions of a woman being assaulted and African American characters being dowsed with gasoline and lit on fire, followed by a dialogue that includes, "mmm, smells like chicken," "now there's welfare reform for you," and "I guess it would have been more politically correct to kill the women and the minorities first." Grand Theft Auto: Vice City garnered criticism from many in the Haitian community after its infamous "Kill all the Haitians" dialogue.

California's violent video game law, which was scheduled to go into affect on January 1, 2006, has been delayed due to a federal lawsuit filed by the video game industry. A hearing took place in May with a decision expected shortly. ❖

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Based upon one nomination from each state, the NASP selects the "Special Friend of Children" award for a policymaker, elected official, or other public servant or member of the community who has proven to be an outstanding champion at the national level for the improvement of education and mental health services for children, youth and their families. The awardees also must have worked to make systemic changes in policies that govern the provision of education and mental health services at the federal level.

"I am honored to receive these awards from such esteemed organizations," said Yee, who is also a child psychologist who served in the public schools prior to elected office. "Together we have passed some of the most significant mental health reforms for our children and our families. I look forward to working with the NASP and CASP for many years to come as we help build a healthier community for all kids."

In the 2005-2006 Legislative Session, Speaker pro Tem Yee authored twenty bills to improve mental and physical health services for California's youth, including AB 2003 to increase support services for children in school; AB 1179 to protect children from the harmful effects of violent video games; AB 1321 to protect patients from being unfairly billed for insured medical expenses; AB 470 to allow for physical and mental assessment of children placed in juvenile hall; AB 1852 to establish a loan forgiveness program for mental health practitioners who work in underserved communities; AB 469 to improve school nutritional guidelines; AB 2004 to reinstate Medi-Cal benefits for previously incarcerated youth.

In past years, Yee was also chosen "Legislator of the Year" by the California Psychiatric Association, California School Nutrition Association, California Mental Health Directors Association, and the Faculty Association of California Community Colleges. ❖



Friday

San Francisco Chronicle

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA'S LARGEST NEWSPAPER

July 21, 2006

UC regents approve \$1 million in improper pay for 60 top execs

By TANYA SCHEVITZ, Chronicle Staff Writer

About 60 top executives in the University of California system can keep more than \$1 million they received in unauthorized extra compensation, the UC governing Board of Regents agreed Thursday.

"The beneficiaries of this didn't do anything wrong, so they shouldn't be penalized," Gerald Parsky, chairman of the board, said after the meeting in San Francisco.

The retroactive approval was, in part, a response to three separate audits that were launched after a series of stories in The Chronicle revealed that millions of dollars in extra compensation and questionable perks had been handed out but never publicly disclosed.

The audits showed how UC administrators flouted and circumvented some university policies while occasionally violating others -- such as neglecting to get the regents' approval as required for some payments.

The audits were performed by the Bureau of State Audits, by an outside firm, and by the university's internal auditor.

Parsky said the Board of Regents, whose compensation committee discussed the matter behind closed doors on Wednesday, evaluated the improper payments in context.

"Where you have individuals that were represented to that they were entitled to certain benefits, we stepped back and evaluated it in the context of, was it something that we would have approved anyway, rather than just blanketly calling for funds to be paid back," said Parsky.

The regents concluded the individuals should not be penalized by having to repay the money to the university, he said.

The approvals cover approximately 60 people who held the top 32 positions in the universities over the past decade.

Many of the items do not show dollar amounts, such as enhanced



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retirement health benefits for UC Berkeley Chancellor Robert Birgeneau, making it impossible to calculate the total. But the items range from recognition of an 18-month sabbatical for Birgeneau, which is worth several hundred thousand dollars, to deferred compensation and a boost in vacation days for UC Riverside Chancellor France Cordova.

Among the list was a \$130,000 overpayment to UC San Diego Vice Chancellor Ed Holmes. A state audit found that UC President Robert Dynes' office set up a complex compensation plan in 2001 to temporarily give Holmes an extra \$5,000 a month to circumvent university restrictions on outside income. But UC officials forgot to stop making the monthly payments. In addition to allowing Holmes to keep the overpayment, UC will continue to pay the extra \$5,000 a month. The state auditor found that the president's office circumvented university policies to give Holmes the extra money.

Assemblyman Leland Yee, D-San Francisco, who has legislation barring the regents from meeting behind closed doors when considering the compensation of high-ranking executives, said it appeared UC regents are oblivious to the controversy that has swirled around them since last November.

"Those regents have got to be living on another planet," Yee said. "For the past year, the constant revelations of closed-door deals and back-door deals have shaken the foundation of the UC system and they simply don't get it."

"Usually when a government entity gets caught with their hand in a cookie jar, they try to correct the problem," Yee added. "All they do is try to codify and sanctify what they are already doing."

Some employees will be asked to rectify the errors. Dozens of UC employees will also get revised W-2 forms to include money they were paid without being reported as taxable income by the university. And UC San Diego Chancellor Marye Anne Fox, who mistakenly received \$248,000 from UC to pay her for a sabbatical she earned when she led North Carolina State University, will see that amount deducted from the pay she gets on a UC-financed sabbatical when she leaves her job as chancellor sometime in the future.

"We agreed to honor (and, therefore fund) her earned sabbatical credits from North Carolina State, just as we've done with other chancellors," said UC spokesman Paul Schwartz. "The only difference with Fox was that the funds were provided early, as the result of a misunderstanding."

The regents also agreed to negotiate a settlement with former acting UC San Diego Chancellor Marsha Chandler, who got an \$8,916 automobile stipend while on a yearlong sabbatical. However, the regents retroactively approved a stipend of \$68,000 for Chandler to allow her to be paid at her higher salary of acting chancellor while she was on sabbatical for a year.

Regent Judith Hopkinson, who heads the regents' Committee on Compensation, told reporters that

the regents approved the extra compensation for the executives because they are underpaid.

State Sen. Abel Maldonado, R-Santa Maria (Santa Barbara County), said the latest action by the regents shows just how out of touch they are with the public.

"They are trying to cover all of their tracks doing once again what is in the best interest of the president of the University of California, not what is in the best interest of the students," Maldonado said. "UC is sending a bad message to the public and students: It's OK to waste taxpayer dollars."

During their meeting, the regents were also told that audits conducted on the various UC campuses revealed that travel and entertainment expenses for senior managers were often inappropriately approved or lacked justification. However, University Auditor Patrick Reed said, there was no evidence of intentional circumvention of policies during fiscal 2004-05, the only years reviewed.

The audits did not include any details about specific transactions.

At UC Santa Barbara, the auditors found that executives were charging too many "employee only" meals as a business expense that did not qualify and were also charging group lunches, sometimes including spouses, that had questionable justification.

In addition, the Santa Barbara executives were granted approval for "exceptional" meal expenses that sometimes doubled and tripled the allowable rate of \$45 per person.

The full audits can be found at www.universityofcalifornia.edu/news/auditreports. ❖